whether Government has any special project for protecting these historical monuments; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI): (a) There is no immediate danger to centrally protected historical monuments in coastal areas like Sun Temple, Konark and Jagannath Temple, Puri due to global warming.

(b) and (c) A groyne wall has been provided to Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram for protection against sea waves and Casuarina plantation has been provided at Sun Temple, Konark and Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram for protection against saline wind.

Entry fee for Taj Mahal

2974. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

whether through a notification dated 18th March, 2008, Government has reduced the entry fee for Taj Mahal from the earlier Rs. 750 to Rs. 20 applicable for only citizens of SAARC countries including Myanmar and Thailand;

whether the collections from the entry fee for Taj Mahal is being shared between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Agra Development Authority; and

whether the Agra Development Authority is not complying with the new notification on entry fee for SAARC citizens and insists on its share of Rs. 500 an each ticket for SAARC nationals sold by ASI?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Through a notification dated 5th March, 2008, the Archaeological Survey of India has brought the entry fee in respect of citizens of SAARC and BIMSTEC countries at par with Indian citizens.

At Taj Mahal, ASI charges entry fee @Rs. 10/- from Indian visitors and nationals of SAARC and BIMSTEC countries. Foreigners of other nationalities are charged @Rs. 250/-. The Agra Development Authority charges Rs. 500/- from each foreign national including citizens of SAARC and BIMSTEC countries and Rs. 10/- from Indian visitors as Toll Tax (Path-kar).

The notification issued by the Archaeological Survey of India applies only to ASI's entry fee and not to the tax charged by the Agra Development Authority.

Maps and Audio guides for foreign tourists

2975. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

whether it is proposed to provide maps and audio guides to the foreign tourists at monuments/museums";

if so, the details thereof;

whether a beginning has been made in the matter;

if so, the details thereof; and

whether it is proposed to cover the religious hubs/monuments in Orissa under this project?